

Remarks

By the foregoing Amendment, claims 1-2 are amended. No new matter is added by this Amendment. Entry of the Amendment, and favorable consideration thereof, is earnestly requested.

The Examiner has noted that no priority papers have been filed in the application. Applicant submits the enclosed July 25, 2002 Notification from the International Bureau indicating that it received the relevant priority document for the Examiner's convenience.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's general comments regarding allowable claim scope. Applicant has made amendments, as detailed below, in accordance with same.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for lack of antecedent basis. Accordingly, these claims have been amended.

The Examiner has rejected independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Petersen, U.S. Patent No. 4,784,442, Rinsma, International Application No. WO 99/37939, Steiner, and U.S. Patent No. 5,586,814, Inagawa, U.S. Patent No. 5,445,441. In light of the Examiner's comments, and to expedite prosecution, claim 1 has been amended. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to include an electric motor, a thrust rod gear driven by the motor, and a thrust rod that applies a brake force when the gear is driven, and has been further amended to recite that the sensor transmits a signal to this electric motor that causes the motor to stop the application of brake force when a desired amount of force has been attained.

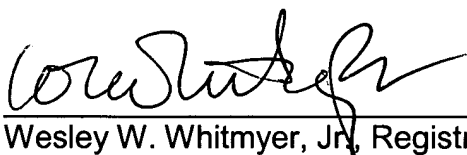
The cited references, as noted by the Examiner, are no longer applicable in light of this amendment. None of these references anticipates independent claim 1 because all of the elements in claim 1, as amended, are not shown in these references. Similarly, claim 1, as amended, is not obvious over the cited references, as none of

these references present any suggestion or motivation to make the modifications necessary to arrive at the invention of amended claim 1. Specifically, there is no suggestion in any of the cited references to use an electric motor to drive a thrust rod gear in order to apply the brake force and receive a signal from the sensor of the corresponding reaction force in order to stop the application of the brake force when a desired force has been attained.

Because the claims now recite the electric motor, Figures 1-2 and 4 have been amended to show this element in order to satisfy the requirements of 37 CFR § 183(a). Similarly, paragraphs 00015 and 00017 of the specification have been amended to reflect the reference numeral designating this element in the drawings.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-7, all of the claims remaining in the application, are in order for allowance, and early notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendments to the Drawings

Please amend Figures 1-2 and 4 according to the replacement sheets submitted herewith.